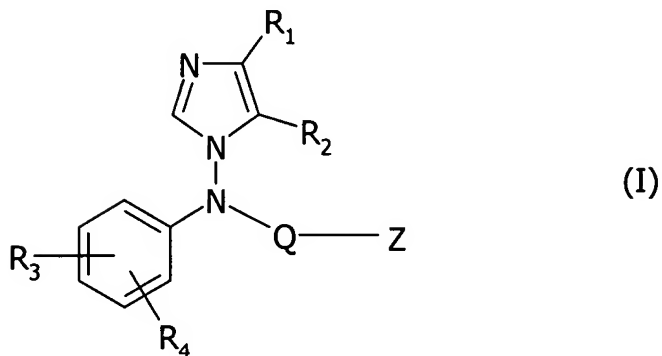


IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

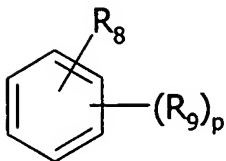
Claims 1-39 (canceled).

40. (currently amended) An imidazole derivative of formula (I):



and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein :

- R_1 and R_2 are each independently hydrogen, a (C_1-C_6) alkyl or a (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl;
- Q is $(CH_2)_m-X-(CH_2)_n-A$;
- A is a direct link, O or NR_5 ;
- X is a direct link or $C(O)$;
- Z is the group



- one of R_3 and R_8 is hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy or $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$; and
- the other ~~or~~ of R_3 and R_8 is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}SO_2NR_{11}R_{12}$ group,

- R_4 is hydrogen and R_9 is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, acyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, or CO_2R_{10} group,
 - R_8 and R_9 together with the phenyl ring bearing them can also form a benzoxathiazine dioxide or a dihydrobenzoxathiazine dioxide;
 - m and n are each independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;
 - p is 1, 2, 3 or 4;
- with the ~~provisio~~ proviso that when Q is $(CH_2)_n$, n is 0, 1 or 2, one of R_3 and R_8 is hydroxy, nitro, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, or $OSO_2NR_{10}SO_2NR_{11}R_{12}$ group;
- R_5 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} are each hydrogen.

41. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- one of R_3 and R_8 is cyano; and
- the other is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ group.

42. (currently amended) A derivative according to claim ~~4~~ 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- one of R_3 and R_8 is cyano; and
- the other is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ group.

43. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- R_9 is hydrogen or a hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, CO_2R_{10} , CHO, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ group.

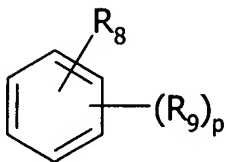
44. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 43, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- R_4 is hydrogen; and
- R_9 is hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, CO_2R_{10} , or CHO.

45. (currently amended) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein Q is selected from the group consisting of a direct link, $C(O)$, ~~SO_2~~ $CONH$, $C(O)(CH_2)_n$, $(CH_2)_n(O)$ or $(CH_2)_n$ in which n is 0, 1 or 2.

46. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- Z is



- Q is $(CH_2)_n$ in which n 0, 1 or 2;
- R_8 is hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano or a (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, or $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ group; and
- R_9 is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, or $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$.

47. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- n is 0 or 1; and
- R_9 is hydrogen, halogen, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, acyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ or $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$.

48. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- n is 0 or 1;
- R₁, R₂ and R₄ are each hydrogen; and
- R₉ is hydrogen, halogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl or OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁.

49. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- n and p are 1;
- R₈ is a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, NR₁₀R₁₁, SO₂NR₁₀R₁₁, OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁, NR₁₂SO₂NR₁₀R₁₁ or OSO₂NR₁₀SO₂NR₁₁R₁₂ group;
- R₉ a hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, NR₁₀R₁₁, OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁, CO₂R₁₀ or CHO group; and
- R₃ is cyano, hydroxy, or OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁.

50. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein one of R₃ and R₈ is hydroxy, cyano or OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁ and the other of R₃ and R₈ is hydroxy, nitro, NR₁₀R₁₁, OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁ or NR₁₂SO₂NR₁₀R₁₁.

51. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 50, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein one of R₃ and R₈ is cyano or OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁ and the other is hydroxy or OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁.

52. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein R₁₀ and R₁₁ are hydrogen.

53. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 40, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use as an active therapeutic substance.

54. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a derivative according to claim 40, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

55. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 54, comprising from 0.1 to 400 mg of said derivative.

56. (previously presented) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is selected the group consisting of:

- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)amino]methylbenzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methylbenzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile
- 4-[N-(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-bromo-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-formyl-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-{ [N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}benzene sulphonamide,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxy-3-nitrophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,

- 5-([N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl)-2-methoxybenzoic acid,
- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-nitrophenyl)amino]benzonitrile,
- N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)acetamide,
- N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamide,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)propanamide,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4-(phenylmethoxy)benzensulfonamide,
- 4-[N-(3-amino-4-hydroxy-phenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-{N-[2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)ethyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino}benzonitrile,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4-hydroxybenzensulfonamide,
- 4-[N-(4-aminophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- Sulfamic acid 4-[N-(4-cyanophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid-4-([N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl)phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-chloro-4-([N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl)phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-([N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl)phenyl ester, hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 2-methoxy-4-([N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl)phenyl ester,

- Sulfamic acid 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- N-{4-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl}sulfamide,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]sulfonyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{2-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-carbamoyl]-methyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]-3-oxopropyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 3-(aminosulfonyl)amino-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- 2-Bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl amidimidodisulfate acid,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3,4-dihydro-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 5-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}-2-hydroxybenzoic acid,
- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(phenyl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-tosylamino-4-hydroxy-benzyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3-tosyl-3H-1,2,3-benzoxathiazol-5-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3H-1,2,3-benzoxathiazol-5-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile, and
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N'-phenylurea.

57. (previously presented) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is selected from the group consisting of:

- Sulfamic acid 4-[N-(4-cyanophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid-4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino}methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-chloro-4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino}methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino} methyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 2-methoxy-4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino} methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino} methyl}phenyl ester,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino}sulfonyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{2-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)-carbamoyl}-methyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino}-3-oxopropyl} phenyl ester, and
- Sulfamic acid 3-(aminosulfonyl)amino-4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino}methyl}phenyl ester.

58. (previously presented) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{{N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino} methyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride.